

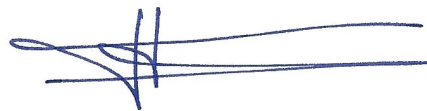
21 July 2025

Dear Dr. Schmitt,

Thank you very much for your efficient handling of the manuscript. I have made all but one of the changes requested in your decision letter. Having made a random selection of high profile geochronology papers, I found that most of these do not define the acronym 'MSWD'. This acronym is so widespread in our field that I do not think it necessary to define it. However, if you insist then I would be happy to add a reference to McIntyre et al. (1966).

In addition to the requested changes, I have also adjusted Equation 1 slightly, making it more accurate. Finally, I have followed Dr. Mezger's advice and removed all 'subjective' or 'emotional' words from the text.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a series of horizontal and vertical strokes.

Pieter Vermeesch

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